State Governments have appointed Senior officers as nodal officers for resolving problems associated with implementation of the National Highways Development Project such as land acquisition, removal of utilities, forest/ pollution/environment clearances etc.

- To expedite the construction of Road Over Bridges, an officer of the Railways has been posted to National Highways Authority of India to coordinate with Railways, Memorandum of Understanding has been signed with M/s IRCON International Limited.
- Performance of the contractors are being closely monitory and non performing contractors are identified.

Guidelines for LNG chartering

3231. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to relax the guidelines pertaining to LNG chartering to allow the LNG purchaser the choice of carrier for import; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) No Sir, Ministry of Shipping Road Transport and Highways has no proposal to relax the guidelines pertaining to LNG chartering.

(b) Does not arise.

Widening of National Highways in Maharashtra

3232. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether proposals for widening of National Highways and converting them into four or six lane roads in Maharashtra is under consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when these proposals are likely to be approved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA): (a) to (c) In the State of Maharashtra, widening to four/six lanes of 524 Km. length of National Highways has already been completed, and that for 285 Km. length is in progress under National Highways Development Programme Phase-I & II. In addition, Government has approved widening to four/six lanes of 474 Km. length of National Highways under NHDP Phase-IIIA. Apart from this Government has identified 511 Km. length of National Highways for widening to four/six lanes under NHDP Phase-IIIB and Annual Plan for 2005-06 in the State of Maharashtra. The details are annexed at Statement (See Below). National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has been asked to prepare Detailed Project Reports for the stretches identified under NHDP Phase-Ill B.lt is too early to indicate the date of approval for these works.

Statement

Details of Proposals approved for widening of National Highways in Maharashtra

(A) Details of Stretches Approved Under NHDP Phase-I for Widening to Four/Six Lanes in the State of Maharashtra

S. No.	NH No.	Stretches of National Highways	Length in Km.
1.	4	Sarole-Wathar	29.00
2.	4	Wathar-Satara	35.00
3.	8	Kajali-Manor	57.40
4.	4	Westerly Diversion	34.25
5.	4	Mumbai Pune Expressway	10.00 I
6.	4	Mumbai Pune Expressway (km. 878 to Km. 958]	80.00
7.	8	Manor Baseein-Creek Section	58.00
8.	4	Khambkati Ghat	9.00
9.	8	Baseein-Creek Bridge-Dhaishar	2.00
10.	8	Dhaishar-Mumbai	4.00
11.	4	Katraj Realignment	9.00
12.	4	Satara-Kagal Katraj	133.00
13.	4	Sarole	28.50
		TOTAL:	489.15

(B) Details of Stretches Approved Under NHDP Phase-ll for Widening to Four/Six Lanes in the State of Maharashtra

S. No.	NH No	. Stretches of National Highways Length	in Km.
1.	7	Nagpur-Borkhedi	25.60
2.	7	Borkhedi to Jam Section	27.40
3.	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad Section (Km. 64.0 to Km. 94.0)	30.00
4.	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad Section (Km. 94.0 to Km. 123.0)	29.00
5.	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad Section (Km. 123.0 to Km. 153.0)	30.00
6.	7	Nagpur-Hyderabad Section (Km. 153.0 to Km. 175.0)	22.00
7.	7	Madhya Pradesh/Maharashtra Border to Nagpur including Nagpur by pass	103.50
8.	7	Nagpur City	9.20
9.	7	Construction of ROB and its approaches from Km. 22.865 to 24.650	1.80
10.	4B&4	Jawaharlal Nehru Port (On port connectivity)	44.00
		TOTAL:	322.50

(C) Details of Stretches Approved Under NHDP Phase-IIIA for Widening to Four/Six Lanes in the state of Maharashtra

S. No.	NH No	. Stretches of National Highways	Length in Km.
1.	3	Gonde-Vadape (Thane)	100
2.	3	Dhule-Pimpalgaon	118
3.	6	Nagpur-Wainganga Bridge	60
4.	6	Wainganga Bridge Maharashtra/Chattisgarh Border	76
5.	6	Nagpur-Kondhali	40
6.	6	Kondhali-Talegon	50
7.	50	Pune-Khend	30
		TOTAL:	474

(D) Details of Stretches Identified Under NHDP Phase-IIIB & Annual Plan for Widening to Four/Six Lanes in the State of Maharashtra

S. No.	NH No	. Stretches of National Highways	Length in Km.
1.	3	Pimpalgaon-Nashik-Gonde	60
2.	3	MP/Maharashtra Border to Dhule	97
3.	4	Kalamboli-Mumbra (six laning)	20
4.	6	Talegaon-Amrawati	58
5.	9	Pune-Solapur	170
6.	17	Panvel-lndapur	84
7.	17	Zarap-Patradevi section (Annual Plan)	22
		TOTAL:	511

Proposal for Central assistance to Maharashtra

3233. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had approved the Maharashtra Government's proposal for Central assistance worth around Rs. 195 crore under the National Coastal Protection Project and included it under the first phase of this project in 2002;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal and the Central assistance sanctioned therefor; and

(c) the progress made so far in implementation of the project and the reasons for the delay and cost escalation incurred so far on account of the delay?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) to (c) The Maharashtra Maritime Board submitted a proposal for an estimated cost of Rs. 195.50 crore in July, 2002 for inclusion in the proposed National Coastal Protection Project (NCPP). The proposal includes 72.36 km of anti-sea erosion works in